

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W

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R 040830 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8918

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

DIA WASHDC

S E C R E T RABAT 2038

EXDIS

PARIS FOR DAO

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MASS MO SY AG UR

SUBJ: SOVIET MILITARY ACTIVITY IN MOROCCO

REF: A. USDAO PARIS 201826 Z APR 73

B. STATE 075329

1. SUMMARY. SOME MOROCCAN MILITARY EQUIPMENT ALREADY SHIPPED TO SYRIA. INCREASED SOVIET AIR TRAFFIC BETWEEN ALGERIA AND MOROCCO WITH MOVEMENT OF ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT FOR ONWARD SHIPMENT TO SYRIA. END SUMMARY.

2. ALTHOUGH WE NOT ACTION ADDRESSEE, FOLLOWING SUMS UP INFO CURRENTLY AVAILABLE HERE CONCERNING PARA 4, REF A:

A. DURING PERIOD 12-15 APRIL, MOROCCANS MADE SEVERAL SHIPMENTS OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT (INCLUDING APPROXIMATELY 35 T-54' TKS) BY RAIL AND ROAD TO ORAN FOR ONWARD SHIPMENT TO SYRIA. TWO SOV LST' S REPORTEDLY LOADED EQUIPMENT AND HAVE SINCE DELIVERED IT TO SYRIA FOR USE BY MOROCCAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE. HAVE BEEN AT
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LEAST TWO MORE OVERLAND SHIPMENTS SINCE THAT PERIOD,
BUT WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER THIS EQUIPMENT STILL IN
ALGERIA OR NOT.

B. ABOUT SAME TIME FIRST SHIPMENTS MADE BY LAND,
A GROUP OF APPROXIMATELY 35 USSR FLIGHT PERSONNEL APPEARED
IN MEKNES. US AND FRENCH ADVISORS BARRED FROM MEKNES AIR
BASE AND WE BEGAN TO RECEIVE INFORMATION OF AN-12 FLIGHTS
IN AND OUT OF BASE. SOME REPORTS INDICATED EARLY FLIGHTS
EITHER ORIGINATED IN, OR PASSED THROUGH, BUDAPEST. OTHER
REPORTS (FRENCH) SAID AN-12 ' S HAD DEPARTED ALGERIA FOR
MEKNES; POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT BUDAPEST PLANES COULD BE
PASSING THROUGH ALGERIA TO MOROCCO. ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT
KNOW SOURCE OF PLANES, LISTS TO VISIT JAPAN BUT HE
DOUBTED THAT DECISION COULD HAVE CREATED KOREAN FRAME OF
MIND PREPARED TO BELIEVE THAT GOJ WOULD SEND
EMISSARY TO PYONGYANG.

4. KOREAN EMBASSY TOKYO MAY BE SOMEWHAT EMBARRASSED BY HAVING
CRIED WOLF TO ITS OWN MINISTRY, WHICH WOULD EXPLAIN
STATEMENTS MADE BY FOREIGN MINISTRY TO EMBASSY SEOUL
(REF B). IT IS, OF COURSE, INCORRECT THAT GOJ QTE CANCELLED
UNQTE VISIT SINCE NO VISIT HAD EVER BEEN CONTEMPLATED.

5. WE HAVE DISCUSSED WITH FONOFF POSSIBILITY THAT ROK WAS
INTENTIONALLY CREATING INCIDENT TO PROBE JAPANESE ATTITUDES
OR EVEN US- JAPAN PLANS TO CONSULT. FONOFF BELIEVES, AND WE
ARE INCLINED TO AGREE, THAT KOREAN EMBOFFS WERE LESS
CALCULATING THAN SIMPLY HUMORLESS AND NAIVE.
INGERSOLL

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS
*** Current Classification *** SECRET

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: willialc
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973RABAT02038
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: RABAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730536/aaaahuug.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: A.USDAO PARIS 201826 Z APR 73, B.STATE 075329
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: willialc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 16 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16-Aug-2001 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <03-Oct-2001 by willialc>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 971204
Subject: SOVIET MILITARY ACTIVITY IN MOROCCO
TAGS: MASS, AG, MO, SY, UR
To: ALGIERS
DIA WASHDC
PARIS
SECSTATE WASHDC
SS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

